

system of mechanical innovations which affected farming, heavy industry, manufacturing and commerce. Urban expansion, in large measure due to the railroad, created additional home markets and aided the growth of a skilled labour force.

The prevailing optimism of the times was reflected in its building.

The distinctive shape of prairie grain elevators bore silent testimony to the work of thousands of eastern Canadians and immigrants who had travelled west by train to work the wheat fields. Later they sent grain that would feed the world eastward along the same rail lines. Electrical power cables and telephone lines were extended between mountains and across plains as visible symbols of the new communication techniques that overcame what had hitherto been one of the farmer-settler's main enemies — isolation.

In the cities, Canadian versions of the classical and Gothic-revival styles expressed the exuberance, expectations and power of the railway magnates, banking and commercial companies, and educational and governmental authorities. Structures of stone or brick hung on skeletons of iron or steel. These public buildings had their counterparts in opulent houses of the wealthy and comfortable homes of the middle class. Victorian style flourished into the 1930's, embellishing even homes of the less well-to-do.

Then it happened. The Great Depression of the 1930's brought construction to a halt. Social unrest came with economic ills, and it was not until the second world war that the economy revived.

Abandon: (to 1967)

By 1945, having fought in two global wars and survived the Great